U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina # 5th District

News Release

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U.S. House Approves \$106 Million for Bennettsville Prison

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday voted to approve \$106 million in funding for a new federal correctional facility in Bennettsville, according to Rep. John Spratt (D-SC), who championed the project. The measure now moves to the Senate, where passage is also expected.

Spratt said the \$106 million comes on top of \$5.43 million in initial funding Congress cleared for the project in December. The new money will allow a firm contract to be signed for the construction of the facility.

The 1152-bed medium-security prison will be located on 411 acres of land on S.C. Highway 9 across from the Evans Correctional Institution. Construction will take from three to five years. The new facility will employ at least 250 people and have an annual operating budget of \$25 million.

Spratt said he was pleased to see the House approve the money. "This is one of the last steps towards making the project a reality," said Spratt. "With Senator Hollings' support, I am sure the prison will be fully funded when this appropriations bill comes through the Senate."

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